levels, including discussions in the Consultative Committee and the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals, in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, the Government finalised the "Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986". These modifications *inter alia* include criteria for keeping the drugs under price control. The rationale behind these decisions was to streamline the price control system, remove the anomolies and aberrations and concentrate on drugs having wide »usage.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Representations received are under examination by the Department.

Rising Prices of Vegetables

558. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that prices of vegetables have sky rocketed since the past few months;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for steep hike in prices of vegetables;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to bring down the prices of vegetables; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The wholesale prices of vegetables during the past few months reflected some seasonal fluctuations.

(b) The increase in the prices of vegetables can be attributed to recent floods and heavy rains which disrupted the normal supply of vegetables and created imbalance between the demand and supply;

(c) and (d) In order to control the excessive fluctuations in prices of vegetables, the Government have been undertaking both short-term and long-term measures. The short-term measures include the sale of vegetables at fixed prices by the National Dairy Development Board, National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation and Super Bazar in Delhi. As a long-term measure the Government has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme to increase the prodcution of vegetables in the country.

Production of Iron and Steel in the Private Sector Companies

559. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registrations and the quantity of production, of iron and steel in the country granted to the Private Sector Companies;

(b) the steel production of private sector companies, plant-wise and sector-wise at present and the production levels targetted for the next three years; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, subject to certain locational restrictions. Intending entrepreneurs are now required to file Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum (IEM's) with the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA). As per present information, as on 1.11.95 1558 IEM's for a total capacity of 131.39 million tonnes in the steel & steel related items, 23 IEM's for a total capacity of 7.55 million tonnes of Sponge Iron and 52 IEMs for a total capacity of 15.31 million tonnes of Pig Iron have been filed with SIA.

(b) and (c) As per available information, reported production of saleable steel, in the Electric Arc Furnace sector and TISCO and expected production (as reported and estimated) for 1995-96 are as below: